

Serial No.: 09/738,103

Docket No.: K-C 16029

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has decreased.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 47, 58, and 80 to recite activated carbon particles. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, at page 5, lines 5-9 of Applicants' Specification.

Applicants have amended Claim 27 to include limitations of dependent Claim 40, which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter. Applicants have canceled Claim 40 as redundant in view of amended Claim 27.

Applicants have amended Claims 43, 46, 59, and 60 to provide proper antecedent bases for all limitations.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

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Telephone Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended and her comments during a telephone interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney on 04 November 2003. The allowable subject matter of Claims 40 and 55 was discussed. The Examiner indicated all independent claims would be in condition for allowance if amended to recite activated carbon particles or granular activated carbon. No further agreement was reached. Applicants submit the above Amendment After Final in response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and comments made during the telephone interview.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 43-46 and 51-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "coated activated carbon particles." Applicants have amended Claims 43 and 46 to delete the term "particles." Applicants urge the limitation "coated activated carbon particles" in dependent Claims 51-54 now has proper antecedent basis in amended independent Claim 47.

Applicants believe that the above Amendment and comments overcome the rejection of Claims 43-46 and 51-54 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 8-23, 26, 27, 29-39, 41, 42, 47-50, 58-60, and 80-84 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ohama, U.S. Patent No. 5,703,152. Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 27, 47, 58, and 80 to include subject matter the Examiner indicated was allowable. Applicants thus urge that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is moot and all claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that Claims 55-57 are allowed, and Claims 7, 24, 25, and 40 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended all independent claims to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, and respectfully asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants

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have not addressed in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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